

REMARKS

The 26 April 2000 official action addressed claims 2-3 and 5-10. All claims have been amended and are pending.

Claims 2-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Subbarao (U.S. 4,965,840). Reconsideration of the rejections is requested in view of the amendments. All claims have been amended to specify that cameras in the claimed system form images of an object from different angles. This feature is supported in each of the embodiments of the application and is the basis of the stereo method of depth calculation to which the claimed invention is applied (see application, pages 1 – 10). The use of images formed from different angles is not taught or suggested by Subbarao. Subbarao's system determines depth from multiple images taken from the same position and having different imaging parameters, e.g. apertures (depths of field), distance to respective focal planes, or focal lengths (see e.g. col. 3, line 60 – col. 4, line 5). Subbarao's system is illustrated in Figure 5, and can be seen there to use a single input image taken from a single angle (3-D SPATIAL SCENE) which is passed directly to a first camera (CAMERA NO. 1) and is also passed to a second camera (by way of the optical elements labeled HALF-SILVERED MIRROR and MIRROR). Although Subbarao's cameras are located at different positions, they do not form images of an object from different angles, but rather form images of the object from the same angle but with different imaging parameters in the individual cameras. Therefore Subbarao does not anticipate the claimed invention. Further, since Subbarao's method determines depth solely from the effects of imaging parameters as listed above, there is no suggestion to produce images of the object from different angles, and it is believed that one would be motivated to refrain from any variation of the angles of images because the effects of such changes would be unknown, and because Subbarao clearly distinguishes his system from stereo vision systems (see Subbarao, col. 3, lines 35-59). Therefore, it is believed that the subject matter of the present claims is not suggested by Subbarao.

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The above amendments and remarks address all bases for rejection and place the application in condition for allowance. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Ronald Coslick

Ronald Coslick

Reg. No. 36,489

Foley & Lardner
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: 202-672-5300
Facsimile: 202-672-5399

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